

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229351

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DRAFTED BY SMI/DPA:SPBELCHER:CCN

APPROVED BY CU/AF:ASDALSIMER

CU/AF:DWSTANSBURY (BY PHONE)

AF/W:JMSEGARS (BY PHONE)

USIA/IAA:RJONES (BY PHONE)

SMI/IAP:RCONROY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, LI

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN EXTENDING INVITATION TO GOL TO PARTICIPATE
1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE BY
SENDING GROUP OF 25 FOLK ARTISTS (MUSICIANS, SINGERS,
DANCERS, CRAFTSPERSONS) PLUS ONE GUIDING FOLKLORIST AND
ONE TOUR ADMINISTRATOR. PARTICIPANTS TO BE SELECTED BY
GOL-DESIGNATED FOLKLORIST OR CULTURAL AUTHORITY WORKING
WITH SMITHSONIAN CONSULTANT BILL WIGGINS, DUE FOR ONE
WEEK FIELD WORK LATE NOVEMBER. GOL ASKED FUND COSTS
ASSEMBLING GROUP IN MONROVIA JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE AND
COMPENSATING FOR ANY LOST WORK-TIME. SMITHSONIAN FUNDS
ROUNDTrip AIRFARE, STATESIDE TRAVEL, BOARD, LODGING,
TEN DOLLARS DAILY POCKET MONEY EACH PARTICIPANT.

2. "AFRICAN DIASPORA"THEME AREA OF FESTIVAL INVITING
SENEGAL, LIBERIA, GHANA, DAHOMEY, NIGERIA AND ZAIRE AND
SIX CARRIBEAN COUNTRIES FOR TWO WEEKS EACH DURING
TWELVE-WEEK FESTIVAL, TO APPEAR WITH AMERICAN FOLK ARTISTS
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PAGE 02 STATE 229351

CARRYING ON SAME CULTURAL TRADITIONS TO ILLUSTRATE

CONTINUITY OF BLACK CULTURE OVER THREE CONTINENTS.
LIBERIA TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED PERFORM ON THE MALL JULY 11
TO 24 (INCLUDING FOUR DAYS ORIENTATION AND SIGHTSEEING,
TEN DAYS PERFORMING) WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. ALTERNATE

DATES:LAST TWO WEEKS OF FESTIVAL, AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER
5.

3. AFTER WASHINGTON, EACH FOREIGN GROUP TOURS FOR TWO OR
THREE WEEKS, JOINING BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF FOUR
OR SIX MAJOR CITIES.

4. ONE OFFICIAL INVITATION IS BEING EXTENDED LIBERIAN
EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY
MAY THEN INFORM MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HELP ARRANGE
CONTACTS. COURTESY CALL ON EMBASSY SUGGESTED THEY ARE
FAVORABLY DISPOSED.

5. SECOND OFFICIAL INVITATION WILL BE PRESENTED GOL BY
SMITHSONIAN STAFF FOLKLORIST DR. BERNICE REAGON ARRIVING
MONROVIA OCTOBER 14, 0935 HOURS, PANAM FLIGHT 186;
DEPARTING OCTOBER 16, 1245 HOURS, GHANA FLIGHT 549. HOTEL
RESERVATIONS REQUESTED OCTOBER 14,15. WOULD APPRECIATE
MEETING PLANE IF POSSIBLE. REAGON BRINGING SLIDES TO
EXPLAIN AFRICAN DIASPORA CONCEPT AT FESTIVAL. SMITHSONIAN
MAILING OTHER BACKGROUND MATERIALS TO USIS, INCLUDING
COPY OF INVITATION.

6. REAGON WILL BE GRATEFUL IF USIS CAN ACCOMPANY HER ON
INITIAL GOL VISIT(S) AND SUGGEST FOLKLORISTS,
ETHNOMUSICOLOGISTS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS WITH WHOM SHE MIGHT
CONFER. SHE WOULD LIKE TO MEET AGNES VON BALLMOOS, FORMER
CHORAL GROUP DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA.

7. SMITHSONIAN WILL APPRECIATE POST GUIDANCE AND
COOPERATION. KISSINGER

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